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NSC BRIEFING

10 MARCH 1954

LEFTIST COALITION DEFEATS CONGRESS PARTY IN
TRAVANCORE-COCHIN, SOUTH INDIAN STATE

I. Current Situation

A. Socialist-Communist coalition bare majority elections Travancore-Cochin state.

B. Congress still largest single party.

II. Communists may enter Indian state government.

A. First opportunity Communist participate state government.

B. Socialist leader wants form government with Communist support, regardless price Communists ask. No indication Communist demands.

C. Prospect depends attitudes Socialist leaders on national level, some oppose collaboration Communists, but fear split party.

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D. Socialist-Communist government could govern as caretaker six months.

E. Period sufficient effective Communist infiltration.

III. Outlook for continuing instability under any conditions.

A. Congress might invoke rule by central government -- device adopted other cases thwart Communists.

B. Congress attitude play for time -- split leftists.

IV. Over-all significance -- popular disillusionment Congress Party, which still appears offer only chance longer range stability.

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BACKGROUND

1. T-C highest literacy rate India; electorate most enlightened.
2. Most densely populated -- shares general lack development. Nixon 1953 trip noted many educated Travancore driving taxis, other menial jobs.
3. T-C has been a major area Communist strength.
4. Communalism also strong; Communist have catered to it.
5. Breakdown of seats in T-C assembly by party:

Congress Party.....46

Travancore-Tamil Nad Congress.....9.12

Leftist Coalition:

Communist Party of India.....25.23

Sivagat type Praja Socialist Party.....11.19

Nanni type { Revolutionary Socialist Party.....6.9

{ Kerala Socialist Party.....1.3

Independents (Leftist-supported)...10.6